

MISSOURI BEHAVIOR ANALYST ADVISORY BOARD



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MISSOURI DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Todd Streff, MS,
BCBA | CHAIRMAN

Autism Science Foundation Statement on Use of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for Autism

The use of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)-based therapies has recently become a point of disagreement in the autism community.

We write this statement to share our strong support for the use of therapies based on the principles of ABA to help those on the autism spectrum, and to provide examples of how the science and research behind ABA indicate that it is safe and effective in improving the functional abilities of people with autism across the spectrum and across the lifetime. We address four main points regarding utility of ABA principles in autism intervention:

1. ABA is not a single protocol or technique but rather is an approach or set of techniques tailored to individual's strengths and challenges.

Applied Behavior Analysis encompasses a wide array of approaches to intervention, including highly structured approaches (e.g., Discrete Trial Therapy) and naturalistic approaches (e.g., pivotal response training or natural environment teaching). The goal of applied behavior analysis is to promote the acquisition of skills needed to participate successfully in daily activities.

- **ABA type approaches have changed over time. The type of procedures used in the 1960s are different than what it is used today.**

The very first studies around ABA-based interventions were groundbreaking. Previous to those studies which took place almost 60 years ago, parents were told that their children would never live productive lives. These first studies included mostly positive reinforcement with some punishment, using something called discrete trial therapy (DTT). Those early behavioral modification techniques led to children going to school and being able to be more independent. This kept people out of institutions enabled to remain in their communities. But as our scientific understanding of autism changed, so did the techniques used as part of ABA. Over the past 40 years, the term ABA has evolved to include a more holistic approach that incorporates developmental and other learning theories. Today, evidence-based autism therapies that include principles of ABA entail a much broader array of goals, assessments, supports, and accommodations that incorporate a person-led approach and encourage learning through activities that are fun and engaging. It also promotes the use positive, rather than negative reinforcement.

The procedures involved in ABA have become more sophisticated over time and with continual knowledge about autism and how behavioral supports can improve the lives of those on the spectrum, it continues to improve (Justin B. Leaf et al., 2021). Many critics of ABA focus on punishment. Research has shown that positive behavior supports are most effective, and the ABA field has evolved – and continues to evolve – based on a growing body of research (Frampton & Shillingsburg, 2020; Maye et al., 2020; Sandbank et al., 2020; Schmidt, Luiselli, Rue, & Whalley, 2013). ABA-based approaches, especially naturalistic, developmental behavioral approaches, incorporate ideas and practices from many other schools of thought regarding the science of learning, including developmental theory, cognitive theory, and constructivist theories.

- **Research has shown that ABA-based interventions help people with autism.**

CHAIR NOTE CONTINUED

Hundreds of studies, reviews and meta analyses collected over 40 years of research have shown that the principles of ABA, when used correctly, can lead to progress in communication, language ability, cognitive ability, academic skills, adaptive skills, and social interactive behavior in autistic individuals (Helt et al., 2008; Rodgers et al., 2020; Smith & Iadarola, 2015; Weitlauf et al., 2014). While ABA techniques can be used across the lifetime, most of the science conducted so far has focused on use of these techniques prior to age 10 (Howlin, Magiati, & Charman, 2009; Reichow, Hume, Barton, & Boyd, 2018; Rodgers et al., 2020; Schreibman et al., 2015). These changes lead to meaningful gains in quality of life, like developing social connections and friendships (Kasari, Rotheram-Fuller, Locke, & Gulsrud, 2012), maintaining employment (Wehman et al., 2017) and improved independence (Hume, Loftin, & Lantz, 2009).

ABA can also [dramatically reduce problem behaviors like aggression, destruction, and self-injury](#). The Certification Board for ABA therapists [recommend positive rather than negative reinforcement such as punishment](#) be implemented in behavior plans.

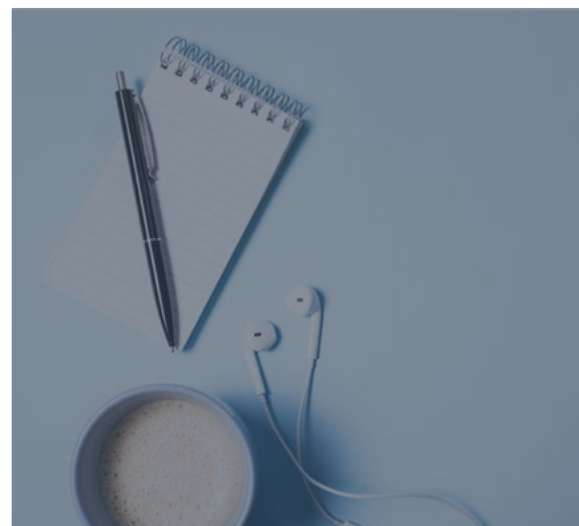
- **The goal of ABA supports and therapies is not to change the essence of who someone is, or to stigmatize non-harmful behaviors, but to lessen disability and help individuals and families with ASD reach their goals.**

It is a mistake to throw out an entire canon of techniques and principles based on criticism of past practices. The goal of ABA is to maximize communication skills and minimize challenging behaviors that limit opportunity, not to eliminate neurodiversity. In fact, autistic adults have acknowledged the benefits of certain interventions based on the principles of ABA (Schuck et al., 2021). Additional issues surrounding the controversies around ABA are summarized and addressed in: J. B. Leaf et al., 2021.

The Autism Science Foundation supports the use of interventions based on the principles of ABA to help individuals of all ages across the spectrum lead their best lives possible. Of course, we strongly are against any program or therapy that harms an individual. However, we have concluded that ABA therapy, when properly rendered in an ethical manner, is beneficial to individuals who are impacted by autism.

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St. Louis, MO



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MA, BCBA
St Peters, MO



Ann Rost
PhD
Marshfield, MO



Pam Groose
Executive Director

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As you can see, our board has vacant positions. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on our board, go to <https://boards.mo.gov> for more information or to apply for an appointment.

SAY WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACES!

In January 2020, Governor Michael Parson appointed Ann Rost, Ph.D. to the State Committee of Psychologists, with their terms beginning on December 15, 2020. As part of her duties to the State Committee of Psychologists, she will also serve on the Behavior Analysts Advisory Board. We welcome her to the Advisory Board and are excited to add her experience and expertise.



ANN ROST, PH.D.

Dr. Rost completed her doctoral training in Clinical Psychology with a Health Specialty at the University of Kansas. She interned at the University of Chicago Medical Center working in a Psycho-Oncology setting, and a multidisciplinary Anxiety Disorders clinic. Dr. Rost then coordinated psychological services in the Gynecological Oncology section of the Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 2003, Dr. Rost has been a professor at Missouri State University. In addition to teaching and conducting research, she continues to be involved in clinical practice.

Sheila Solon was appointed by Governor Parson on January 6, 2021 as the Acting Director for the Division of Professional Registration, to be the guiding force behind our service to all licensed professionals and to the citizens of Missouri.



SHEILA SOLON

Originally from Chicago, Ms. Solon moved to Missouri over 30 years ago and brings a wealth of legislative and leadership experience with her into her new role as Division Director of Professional Registration. She had the unique distinction of being elected in the Missouri House of Representatives in two different districts. Her energy and dedication will be a model for us all.



DIVISION 2063 - BEHAVIOR ANALYST ADVISORY BOARD

- Chapter 1 - General Rules
- Chapter 2 - Licensure Requirements
- Chapter 3 - Certifying Entities
- Chapter 4 - Education and Training Requirements
- Chapter 5 - Supervision
- Chapter 6 - Standards of Practice

● ● ● ● RULE UPDATES

A few amendments have been made this past year to the Behavior Analyst Advisory Board General Rules.

Effective February 28, 2021, 20 CSR 2063-1.010 now defines Certifying Entity as the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

20 CSR 2063-1.015 has been amended to include a \$25.00 Verification of License Fee. Effective March 30, 2021, you are required to pay \$25.00 for each License Verification you need sent to another state. If you are applying for licensure in another state and need a license verification sent to that state, simply send us a note attached to your check or money order indicating your license number and the agency name and address where you need the verification sent. We can send the verification by e-mail or a hard copy by US postal service.

20 CSR 2063-2.010 has been amended to include the following paragraph:

The required renewal information, renewal fee, and information related to the behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst's practice and demographics for the purpose of collecting workforce data shall be submitted prior to the expiration date of the license.

This change went into effect April 30, 2021.

Effective October 30, 2021, the amendment to 20 CSR 2063-6.005 clarifies the language in the Ethical Rules of Conduct (1)(E) pertaining to Aids to Interpretation.

BEHAVIOR ANALYST CERTIFICATION BOARD UPDATES



Several changes go into effect January 1, 2022 for BCBA and BCaBA eligibility requirements. These changes affect coursework and degree requirements, experience and supervision requirements, and examination content. In addition to the changes in eligibility requirements, a new Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts will also go into effect January 1, 2022. For more information, visit <https://www.bacb.com/upcoming-changes/>.

REMINDERS

CERTIFICATION

Your Missouri Behavior Analyst or Assistant Behavior Analyst license is dependent upon your certification with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. If your BACB certification expires, you are no longer eligible to practice behavior analysis in Missouri, even if your Missouri license has not yet reached its expiration date. We must have documentation of your current certification in our office in order for your license to remain active.

We send out e-mail reminders when your certification is about to expire, but ultimately it is your responsibility to maintain your certification and to provide us with documentation. Please be sure to submit either a copy of your new certification card or a snip of your BACB portal showing your new certification expiration date prior to the expiration date we have on file.

ADDRESS UPDATES

Remember to make sure you have notified us of any address changes. Per 20 CSR 2063-2.015:

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the change, a licensee must inform the board of all changes in the mailing address as it appears on the licensee's license by contacting the Behavior analyst Advisory Board in writing.

While the rule does not specifically mention e-mail addresses, it is very important that we have current e-mail addresses since that is our primary mode of communication with you.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

As part of the renewal process you must attest to having completed at least 2 hours of Suicide Prevention Training within the last biennial licensure cycle. While you do not need to submit any documentation, licensees must maintain documentation of proof of compliance of this training requirement.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Behavior Analyst Advisory Board offers a heartfelt thanks to all Behavior Analysts and Assistant Behavior Analysts who have served professionally to help the citizens of Missouri. We'd like to recognize those of you who have reached a milestone as a licensed Behavior Analyst in our state.

10 YEARS AS A LICENSED BEHAVIOR ANALYST IN MISSOURI-LICENSED IN 2011

DEIRDRE ABERNATHY, SAINT LOUIS, MO
LAURA BARNES, COLUMBIA, MO
REBECCA BLACKWELL, SAINT LOUIS, MO
AMELIA BUIE, O FALLON, MO
STEPHANIE CAMPBELL, SPRINGFIELD, MO
MICHELLE CARPENTIERI, PLATTE CITY, MO
NANCY CHAMPLIN, OVERLAND PARK, KS
AMANDA COLBERT, MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MO
TERESA COOK-GUERCIO, JERSEYVILLE, IL
DONNA DELIA, SAINT LOUIS, MO
BECKY DOUGLAS, QUEEN CITY, MO
MICHELE FLESHMAN, DEARBORN, MO
KAREN FRY, SAINT PETERS, MO
JULIE GRANA, SAINT LOUIS, MO
JOHN GUERCIO, SAINT LOUIS, MO
VICKI HANSON, IMPERIAL, MO
JESSICA HARRISON, MURPHYSBORO, IL
LINDA HEITZMAN-POWELL, MC LOUTH, KS
LAURA HOPPER, CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO
SARA IBBETSON, SPRINGFIELD, MO
DAVID JAQUES, BALLWIN, MO
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JULIANNE JOSENDALE, KANSAS CITY, MO
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ELIZABETH KINSELLA, SAINT LOUIS, MO
JENNA KOKOSKI, SAINT LOUIS, MO
TAMMY KRAVITS, LEES SUMMIT, MO
MEGAN LEMKE, FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, IL
HEATHER LEWIS, SAINT LOUIS, MO
SHELLEY LIST, SAINT LOUIS, MO
JEAN MARSHALL, WILDWOOD, MO
DALE MAXVILLE, SAINT LOUIS, MO
DEBORAH MCMAHON, EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO
STEPHANIE MERKER, CHESTERFIELD, MO
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MISTY OPPENHEIM-LEAF, LONG BEACH, CA
KRISTY PARKER, JOPLIN, MO
TAMMY PENTZ, WEBSTER GROVES, MO
PETE PETERSON, OLATHE, KS
MOLLY POMEROY, LEES SUMMIT, MO
ANGELA RANGE, WENTZVILLE, MO
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REBECCA RUBIE, SAINT LOUIS, MO
ELIZABETH RUSINKO, BOONVILLE, MO

10 YEARS AS A LICENSED BEHAVIOR ANALYST IN MISSOURI-LICENSED IN 2011

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SHERRIE SHANNON, MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MO
JENNIFER SUTER, BLUE SPRINGS, MO
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MEGAN TREGNAGO, COLUMBIA, MO
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MELISSA VENDT, CLARKSON VALLEY, MO
MELISSA WEBER, UNIVERSITY CITY, MO
ANNA WHALEY, CLEVELAND, MO
TARA WILLIAMS, LEES SUMMIT, MO
MELANTHA WITHERSPOON, FLORISSANT, MO

10 YEARS AS A LICENSED ASSISTANT BEHAVIOR ANALYST IN MISSOURI - LICENSED IN 2011

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SARAH HANNERS, NIXA, MO
KYLER HASL-WRIGHT, ST. LOUIS, MO
AMANDA LOYD, WENTZVILLE, MO
JENNIFER WALLACE, FORISTELL, MO

FAREWELL!



DR. SKRADE

Dr. Mark Skrade was appointed to the State Committee of Psychologists by Governor Matt Blunt on October 29, 2008 and served the Psychology community and citizens of Missouri until December 31, 2020. As part of his duties to the State Committee of Psychology, he also served on the Behavior Analyst Advisory Board. When he was recently presented a plaque by the Behavior Analyst Advisory Board and the State Committee of Psychologists commemorating his service, a fellow board member stated, “I could always look to Mark to be the balanced voice that easily moves to both sides of an issue and can help settle discussions when they get off track. Because of his tremendously broad knowledge and experience, I know more.”

Thank you, Dr. Skrade, for your many years of dedication and service. We wish you well in your future endeavors.



Pictured: middle Mark Skrade, to his left is Todd Streff, Chair of the Behavior Analyst Advisory Board, and to Dr. Skrade's right is Patrick Maloney, member of the State Committee of Psychologists

“This is Karla. How may I help you?” is what you have heard for the past three years when you’ve called with questions ranging from “How do I apply for a BA license?” to “The dog ate my license. How do I get a replacement?”

Whatever your question or need, Karla has been there to provide assistance with professionalism and compassion. We wish Karla well in her new position as Executive Director for the Cosmetology and Barber Board here at the Division of Professional Registration.



KARLA JOHANSEN